

I. AMENDMENT

In the Specification:

Please replace paragraph on page 16, line 2-4 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 20 illustrates stages of the securing of lifting straps of a bulk bag to the support device of Figure 19; ~~and~~

Please replace paragraph on page 16, line 6-8 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 21 illustrates the freeing of a lifting strap of the embodiment shown in Figures 19 and 20, when a fork-lift tine is not fully inserted [[.]] ;

Please insert the following paragraphs on page 16, after line 8.

Figure 22 is a front perspective view, similar to that of Figure 2, of another embodiment of a spacer; and

Figure 23 is a view, similar to Figure 8, of a support device according to another embodiment of the invention mounted on a bulk bag being lifted by a fork-lift.

Please insert the following paragraph on page 24, after line 7.

The embodiment of spacer shown in Figure 22 is similar to that of Figure 2. This embodiment of spacer is shown in use in a support device secured to a bulk bag in Figure 23, which is similar to Figure 8. The spacer and device shown in Figures 22 and 23 operate in the same manner as those of Figures 2 and 8.